k Dickson G-5 (1929-47) 1951 Kill 1 Kuwait
Re-drawing 1954
Mu'alaq

Donkey Riders

Add to the above the Zubairiyah, a Zubair sheep tribe, and the Zauba and Rufa'at, who are of Shammar origin, both of whom in good years join up with the Mumafiq shepherds and move southwards with them, and you have a fairly complete list of the Euphrates Shawiyah lying east of Samawa.

These tribes, though they move about on donkeys, which are more suitable beasts of burden for men owning slowly moving flocks of sheep, are in no way to be confused with the low-class Sukubba fraternity, which are found all over Middle and North Arabia. The latter are the outcasts of the Peninsula, while the shepherd tribes are for the most part of good Arab stock, and some can give and take women from the best tribes of Iraq.

The shepherd tribes are all Shi'ah by persuasion and so are not much liked by the pure-blooded Badawin of the high desert. Nevertheless, they are tolerated and even welcomed by the latter each year, since they bring with them cheap mutton, excellent *dehen* (clarified butter), much wool for tents and red and white sheepskins, always in demand for camel saddle-coverings.

With each annual rainy season the shepherd tribes move south into the gravelly desert some 200 miles or more from the Euphrates. They divide into two waves when they reach the Batin valley, one wave moving down through Kuwait state into the Kuwait Neutral Zone and beyond,* and the other going down as far south as the Tawil al Dhafir and Tawil al Mutair, or scattering over the Al Hajara region, which speaking roughly lies along both sides of the Iraq-Sa'udi Arabia frontier line.

Speaking generally, but this is not an invariable rule, the Zauba-Bani Salama, Ghazzi, Budur, Ghazalat and Zaiyad tribes keep to the west of the Batin while the Shararifat, Juarin, Bani Malik, Albu Salah and 'Azman pass through Kuwait and south along the coast of the Persian Gulf.

The best of the shepherd tribes from a fighting point of view are perhaps the Budur, the Juarin and the Ghazzi, whose Shaikhs Shirhab al Sahan, Nasir al Gubaih (son of the more famous Husain al Gubaih of Great War days) and Manshad al Habaiyib I count among some of my oldest friends of the southern desert. I had many a political

* In bad years the southern limit is Jahrah at the head of the Bay of Kuwait.

29: Glubb--1 G-3 (ca.1935) 1943 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Bedouin MJ4
Sulubba

THE SULUBBA AND OTHER IGNOBLE TRIBES OF SOUTHWESTERN ASIA

by

J. B. Glubb*

114 * Political Officer in Trans-Jordan. These notes were received at Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, during 1935--E.F.

SULUBBA

101 The origin of these people remains obscure.
144 None of the Arab historians of the early Islamic conquests appear to mention them, which seems to disprove the theory that they are remnants of an old conquered race. The hypothesis suggesting descent from the Crusaders seems to be a modern European fantasia based solely on the resemblance between their tribal name and the Arabic word for a cross.

101 Musil (1), in his "Arabia Deserta," states
144
172

1. Alois Musil, Arabia Deserta, p. 233.

104 that the Sulubba believe that they originated
149 from the Hasa Province, on the Persian Gulf,
173 but I have not heard this story. The few Sulubba I have asked usually replied that they came from an old people who were not Moslems. I imagine, however, that this was merely conjectural; I would not attribute these answers to ancient tradition. Two Sulubba once surprised me by saying that they were descended from Crusaders! But on pressing them for the origin of their statement, they admitted that they had been told so by a French officer in Syria!

101 The Sulubba are to be found in an area extending roughly from Damascus to Mosul in the north, down to Jauf, east of the Nefud, Hail, Persian Gulf, the Euphrates, the Tigris above Baghdad, and Mosul.

101 They are scarcely ever found in Trans-Jordan
144 west of the Wadi Sirhan; I believe that they do not exist in the Hejaz or in the western half of Arabia. This distribution might reinforce the legend of their origin from Hasa Province on the Persian Gulf, from which they might well have emigrated north to the more fertile lands in Syria or Iraq, but would have been unlikely to have emigrated to the Hejaz, which is less fertile than the Hasa itself.

563 The Sulubba have long been regarded by the
41 Beduins as a subject race. Many of them work as
72 tinkers for the Beduin tribes and perform other menial duties. They have never taken part in the wars and feuds, which have occupied the greater part of the Beduins' lives for centuries. A Sulubbi, like a woman, was a creature with whom it was too inferior to fight. The Sulubba maintained a strict neutrality in raids, and, for fear of being beaten, told all raiders what they knew of the nature of the country and the movements of their enemies.